**A Hike with Cinnamon**

“I promise I will help walk, feed, and take care of Cinnamon!” That was what Ian and his twin sister, Eve, both told their parents when they got a dog for their eleventh birthday. But that was two months ago, and now Ian was exasperated. On days when it was his turn, Ian walked Cinnamon right after he got home from school. Even when he was tired, Ian was encouraged by Cinnamon’s energy. The two of them were becoming good friends.

But Ian’s sister Eve was another story. When she could have been walking the dog, she was often talking on the phone or e-mailing friends. Once she even told Ian she would pay him if he would walk Cinnamon for her. And a couple of times he had filled Cinnamon’s empty dinner dish when it was Eve’s turn to feed her. Ian had just about had it with his sister. He told her so, and she promised to do better. But she still forgot to do her part at times.

One weekend, their parents took the twins and Cinnamon on the dog’s first excursion. They packed a picnic and set off on a hike through a state forest. Suddenly, they heard rustling in nearby trees, and a deer galloped away from them, its white tail flashing. Before any of them realized what was happening, Cinnamon bounded after the deer, jerking her leash out of Eve’s hand. What would they do now? The dog didn’t know these woods. She would get lost!

Eve ran after the dog, ahead of the rest of her family. “Cinnamon! Come, Cinnamon!” she cried. They could see the dog running farther into the trees, but she paid no heed to Eve. “Cinnamon!” Eve screamed. Still the dog ran on.

Ian sprinted up to Eve. “Let me try.” He called, “Come, Cinnamon! Come, girl!” and whistled loudly. They could no longer see or hear the dog. Ian’s heart beat faster. “Here, girl! Come get a treat!” he called.

A moment passed. It seemed like the whole family was holding its breath. Then, suddenly, Cinnamon burst out of the trees and went right to Ian. He took hold of her leash and gave her a biscuit. They all praised Cinnamon for obeying him.

“I’ve learned something today,” Eve said when all was quiet again. “Because Ian has taken such good care of Cinnamon, she knows him better and listens to him. For Cinnamon’s safety, I need to care for her better.” Cinnamon barked, as if to say she agreed. The whole family laughed.

 